FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. VIII—No. 5 MAY, 1949 178 T.U.B., Inc. Price Five Cents

FTA's Quaker Oats Council holds a meeting. From left, front row: Kenneth Wernst, president, Local 120; Mervin Myers, president, 110; Brownie Amborski, president, 115; Brother Henderson; Harrison Clock, chief steward, 125; Louis Jedlicka, busines agent, 110; Armando Ramirez, James Walsh, business agent, 125; Norman Billings, 120. Back row: John Malarick. The sister was unfortunately not identified in the picture.

FTA 26 Wins Increase In Planters Contract

A wage raise and other substantial gains in the new contract between FTA Local 26 and the Planters Nut & Chocolate Co. averted a strike at the company's plant in Suffolk, Va.

The contract came after almost two months of negotiations, towards the end of which the union announced that its members would strike if there was no acceptable renewal when the old agreement ran out. A big turnout of members paraded in front of the plant during the final negotiations.

The new contract, worked out in a three hour final session with management, includes a three cent raise, two paid holidays (July 4 and Christmas) and an improved vacation plan. Under this plan, workers making over 900 hours will receive a lump sum in vacation payment.

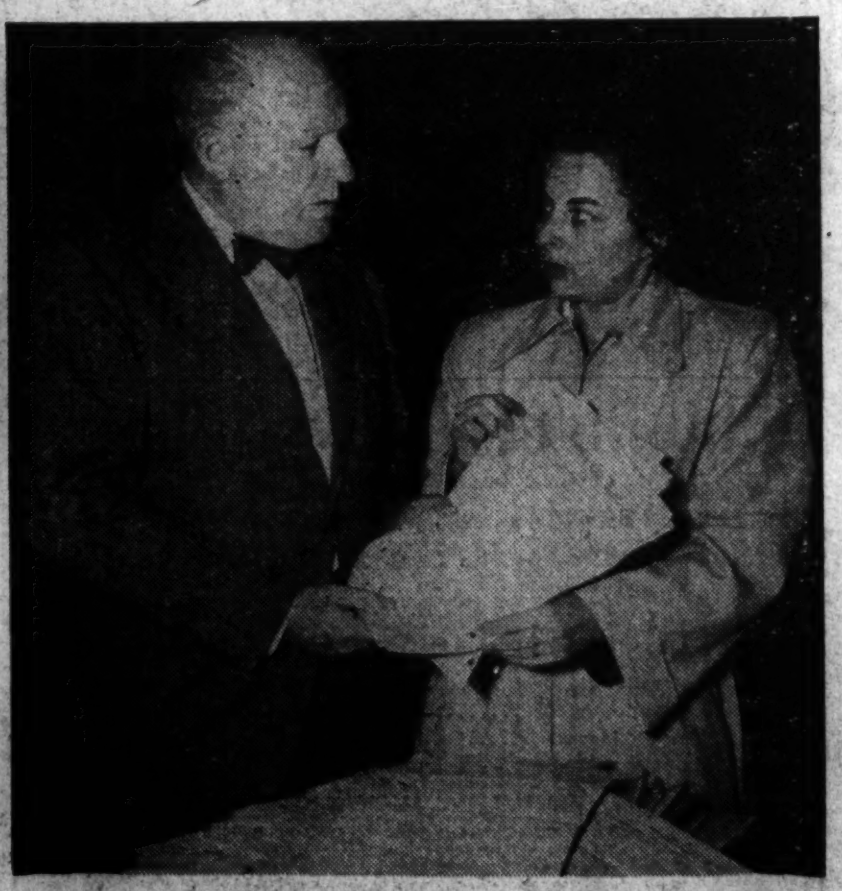
Handling the negotiations were Local President Robbie May Riddick, Leror Harris, Amanda Jackson, Vernita Taylor, Alfred Bailey and Isaac Bailey. Assisting for FTA were Intl. Vice-President Armando Ramirez, Representative E. L. McGurty and Asst. Regional Director Moranda Smith.

CIO Board Meeting

The national CIO Executive Board held a meeting in Washington, D.C., May 17-19. President Donald Henderson attended the meeting as a member of the Board from FTA.

Reports of the actions of the CIO Board meeting were available too late for this issue of FTA News, which went to press on Friday, May 20.

A full report of the CIO Board meeting will be carried in the next issue of FTA News, which will go to press on or about June 15.



Congress hears from FTA as Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly presents petitions signed by 30,000 FTA members demanding total repeal of Taft-Hartley and return of Wagner Act. Petitions are being presented to House Labor sub-committee chairman Rep. Augustine Kelly (D-Pa.).

FTA at work: This and other pictures on this page show FTA members and delegates working out new wage and political problems. Picture above shows Elizabeth Wroton, political director of Local 194, speaking at recent Region 4 conference. *(See story page 3).*

Region IV Holds Conference

Full support for peace and endorsement of FTA President Donald Henderson's trip to the World Peace Congress in Paris was voted at the recent conference of 18 FTA locals in Region IV.

The conference urged total repeal of Taft-Hartley, plus restoration of the Wagner Act, and laid out a campaign of letters, wires and phone calls to its Congressmen in Washington.

The meeting also voted a drive to cut speedup and to secure new wage increases. Raiding of FTA locals by CIO and AFL unions in the area was condemned as a brake on progress in winning better pay and conditions for the workers

A new system of officers was set up, with Paul Gardner as chairman, Josephine Chlupsa of Local 194 as financial secretary and Mae Davis of 110 as recording secretary. Three trustees were elected: Ed Zeliekowski, 191, Mary Fisk, 194, and James Walsh, 125.

Score on Congress

Story of a Sellout

by Elizabeth Sasuly

Sellout is a strong word. Nothing less will do, however, to describe what has taken place in the fight to pass a bill repealing the Taft-Hartley law.

At the moment we are worse off than we were five months ago when the new 81st Congress convened in the rosy glow of hopes stirred up by the 1948 elections. The fight is not lost because it never can be. Whenever the people get a chance to see what is happening they will make the kind of campaign needed to force passage of a good legislative program.

But the fact is that right now Taft-Hartley is still in effect. The slick Democrats who knew all about politics have tried to appease the NAM with a series of amendments to the administration labor bill and none of them worked.

Here is the blow by blow account of how the administration set out to "repeal" Taft-Hartley and then betrayed its pledges:

ACT I—The Thomas-Lesinski bill was drafted and passed through both Senate and House labor committees. Even at the very start the administration was unwilling to try to get a simple re-enactment of the Wagner Act. The Thomas-Lesinski bill started out with four weakening amendments before the first blow was struck.

ACT II—There followed a period of many weeks delay. During this time the Secretary of Labor, Maurice Tobin, and other administration leaders, instead of making a national campaign to rally support for Taft-Hartley repeal, were holding a series of closed door meetings with national labor leaders in an effort to sell them on the idea of accepting further amendments.

ACT III—The bill was yanked out of the Senate, to make way for a high pressure campaign to get ratification of the North Atlantic pact. Debate on the labor bill started in the House.

ACT IV—As the House debate opened, the only chance to vote on straight Taft-Hartley repeal and re-enactment of the Wagner act came on a substitute bill offered by Rep. Vito Marcantonio (ALP-N. Y.). Marcantonio was a pillar of strength throughout the fight. In fact he was so good that he got kicked in the teeth by some labor leaders on the strange grounds that he was making the administration look bad. Only 37 congressmen voted for his bill. There was no record vote so that many more now claim they stood with him.

The administration now moved in with its bill. But, instead of the Thomas-Lesinski bill, it turned out to be a monstrosity known as the Sims substitute.

The Sims bill had almost everything of Taft-Hartley except the name. It had injunctions, "anti-communist" affidavits that were worse than those in T-H, license to bosses to intimidate and threaten in the name of "free speech," etc.

The weakness of the administration was so obvious that the reactionary coalition took full command and turned down the offered appeasement. The Sims bill was beaten. Immediately afterwards, the Wood bill, which was simply a new name for Taft-Hartley, was approved.

At this point the administration leadership was routed. By a series of rapid fire parliamentary maneuvers, Marcantonio was able to delay the final passage of the Wood bill. His fight gave the administration time enough to switch a few votes, and on another vote the Wood bill was recommitted to the labor committee. This left the Taft-Hartley law still on the books with no labor bill before the House.

ACT V—A lull settled over the congressional battlefield. Administration leaders admitted that they wouldn't mind seeing the whole fight go over to next year. The assumption seems to be that people can be expected to forget anything. Democratic leaders privately point to the fact that in 1948 Harry Truman was able to campaign as labor's best friend, although in 1946 when he made his first and only direct plea to Congress on a labor matter he asked to have railroad strikers drafted.

The White House designated Rep. Gus Kelley (D-Pa.), one of labor's strongest supporters, to go to a meeting in Europe. If carried out, this maneuver would leave the House Labor Committee split 12 to 12. In the words of Rep. Adam Clayton Powell (D-NY), it would mean that no progressive bill could come out of committee until July 6.

LAST ACT?—**That is up to us. The smart politicians said the way to win was by compromise. That way has left us worse off than half a year ago. We have to make a clean start, build a mass campaign on all congressmen, and wage an all-out fight on a Taft-Hartley repealer without amendments.**

The top brass has got plans for you, even if they don't actually put you in the army. These plans are quite simple, as outlined by a Col. Harvey in a lecture to top bosses in New York. Said the Colonel, we must "freeze individuals in essential jobs and prevent the use of wages for recruiting labor." He didn't say what he'd use in place of wages to recruit labor, but we suppose once you're frozen it doesn't matter whether you get any wages or not.

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The CIO Textile Workers Union—than which there can be no righter in right wing leadership—has anticipated the Colonel, however. Their Policy Committee has come right out against wage increases now, even before there's a shooting war. Says the N.Y. Times: "90,000 textile workers were advised by their union not to ask for wage increases Aug. 1 when their present contracts are reopenable."

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But not all employers are hard-hearted. Charles H. Steinkraus, president of the Bridgeport Brass Co. and vice-chairman of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce told a Senate committee hearing on Taft-Hartley recently how generous big companies can be. "Sure we spent some money," he said. "We gave our employees a picnic and hired a 75 piece brass band when they got their third Army and Navy E." This, Mr. Steinkraus seemed to think, was an added reason for not repealing Taft-Hartley.

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There are all kinds of theories about unemployment and layoffs and the threat of a depression. Mainly they follow the line that if we don't talk about the nasty thing maybe it will go away. Prize goes to the double-barrelled theory of what to do reported from a buyers' conference recently at New York. As quoted in the Journal of Commerce there are two ways a depression is likely to develop: "1. The possibility that we will talk ourselves into one" and "2. The eventuality that Russia will declare and practice peace."

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Lots of manufacturers are looking to Puerto Rico as a place to move their plants. Few boosters for P. R. are as frank as one Gustav Simons, however, who last week listed "Puerto Rican wages, said to be from one-third to one-half as high as American rates" as one of the U. S.-owned island's principal advantages.

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Congressmen are crying for economy, especially when it comes to social legislation such as housing, health, etc. But when it hits themselves, it is different. A few weeks ago they raised their allowances for secretarial help, now they want to increase the amount they can spend on their own re-election.

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More than $400,000 in taxpayers' money was spent by former Governor Green of Illinois to ensure newspaper support for his administration. Funny thing is the newspapers in the big cities, which dearly love an exposé, didn't say a word about this when the story broke, and few mentioned it even weeks after. Apparently our "free press" wasn't free to ex-Gov. Green or rather the taxpayers of Illinois.

Atlantic Pact 'Long Step' Toward War, Henderson Tells Senators

The Atlantic pact, which binds the U.S. to fight automatically if any nation that signs it is attacked, is "a long step in the preparation of war," FTA President Donald Henderson told the U. S Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington. Henderson made it clear to the Senators that he appeared only on behalf of FTA, not on behalf of CIO.

"Followed by huge arms building, it (the pact) is a long step toward a new and far more frightful depression in this country," he said.

"Pyramiding arms instead of producing goods and services for our people destroys real wealth, does not create it."

Pointing out that ever more huge expenditures for arms "follows the Atlantic pact, as surely as night follows day," Henderson warned:

The Atlantic pact comes in the door and social security, housing, health, education—all the social needs of the country fly out the window.

Pact Comes, T-H Stays

"It is even said now that we 'cannot' raise minimum wages to $1.00 or even 75 cents an hour because 'defense' needs are too great. The infamous Taft-Hartley law stays on the books but the Atlantic pact, we are told, must be passed in a hurry."

Henderson drew on his recent trip to Paris where he attended the World Federation of Trade Union sessions and spoke to thousands of workers at the World Peace Congress to tell the Senators that Europe would resist another war "with every means at its comand, including armed resistance."

"While in France I met with workers and spoke at several workers' meetings. These were rank and file workers, not just top leaders, he said.

Will Bring Civil War

"Without exception they told me that the working people of Europe will not take part in an aggressive war. They will not submit tamely to such a war being fought on their soil. They will resist such a war with every means at their command, including armed resistance.

"A war of aggression will bring civil war to all Europe."

Henderson said the Atlantic pact would "knock the props out from under the hopes" the American people place in the United Nations, since it directly attacks the unanimity of the great powers on which the UN was built.

"The Atlantic pact wipes out the only safeguards the nations have been able to erect for peace," he declared. He proposed three steps to end the fear of war and secure the peace:

"1. Scrap the Atlantic pact. 2. Let the great powers meet as equals, with the guns checked outside the door. 3. Above all, turn to the United Nations, where the powers can meet as equals and where decisions on the future of the world are taken in unanimity and full agreement by all.

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The American Tobacco Council delegation sits for its picture at the FTA-called joint conference with AFL representatives on cigar industry problems. From left, seated: Lucy Aiello, Local 56; Betty Marcine, 56; Josephine Pozzutto, 186; Bernice Robertson, 186; unidentified in picture; John Cummings, 15; Anna Lee Bonneau, 15; Mary Turner, 186; Albino Venanzi, 56; Fredd Less, 15; Ruth Sharkey, 186; George Ardelean, 186; Armando Ramirez; C. R. Tucker, 15; Herbert Kling; Anna Welhof, 186; Helen Kearns, 186; A. T. Hicks, 15; Alma Anabeite, 56. *(See story page 5).*

Wisconsin FTA Locals Win Raises, New Gains

FTA locals are continuing to forge ahead in contract negotiations. Despite the fact that no progress has been made by the large unions in auto and steel, and in many instances even setbacks, FTA has gone ahead with new gains.

Local 236 at Whitewater was the first to negotiate a new agreement which called for a 15 day sick leave, union shop conditional upon repeal of Taft-Hartley, a new clause on discipline that will protect the workers more effectively, and some additions to the wage classification.

All workers are guaranteed 50 hours a week with time and a half after 40 hours. Workers at the Whitewater plant of Hawthorn-Mellody Farm Dairy are 20c per hour above neighboring plants at East Troy and Gennsee now in the AFL.

Local 191 at Milwaukee has concluded contracts with the Catholic Cemeteries calling for addition of a five day paid sick leave and a three cents per hour wage increase. These cover all workers at Calvary, Holy Cross, Holy Trinity, and Mount Olivet Cemeteries all of which are under union shop contract.

At Pinelawn Cemetery additions to the contract were a six day sick leave with pay and an eight cent per hour wage increase. These workers are also under a union shop agreement. At Forest Home the old agreement was renewed with a 30 day wage reopening clause added. This contract provides for a checkoff of union dues and also a guaranteed annual wage paid on a monthly basis. One other contract at Valhalla Cemetery is still to be negotiated. It expires May 31. Local 191 is also embarked on an organizational drive and expects over the summer period to bring in many of the unorganized cemeteries of Milwaukee.

At Fond Du Lac Wisc., Local 341 has reached agreements with the Tolibia Cheese Corporation and with the Dow Cheese Company. The contract at Dow was renewed with the company paying the full premium on a health and safety insurance plan and a 30 day wage reopening clause plus other changes providing for greater security. This contract also provides for checkoff and the plant is 100% organized. At Tolibia the checkoff clause was clarified along with other minor changes improving the agreement. A two cent per hour wage increase across the board with a 30 day wage reopening was also agreed on.

The officers and rank and file have done a good job. Full credit should be given to George West, Dale Denio, John Trewyn and the rest of Local 236, Pat Romalia, Ray Conrad, Eddie Wohlschlegal, Alice Ruddy, George Launders from 341, and Clarence Seiberlich, Louis Osterkorn, Eddie Zelakowski, and the boys from Local 191, for a job well done.

At Carrollville, Wisconsin, Local 495 is in negotiations with the Peter Cooper Corp., United States Glue Division, on a new contract. Several meetings have been held but no agreement reached. Marvin Dishaw, John Kovach, Allie Berg, and Mike Kaiser are heading the bargaining committee assisted by the regional office.

FTA Local 7 Again Fights Attack By Union Splitters in T-H Poll

By John Tisa
Director of Organization

Every year for the last three years Local 7, Seattle, Wash. which consists of salmon workers who go to Alaska to work in the canneries, the industry employers have in one way or another stimulated internal strife within the Local just prior to negotiations.

In 1947 company-minded leaders of the Local tried to secede from FTA. A court battle ensued and a struggle by the rank and file to secure the leadership of the Local from the phonies was successful. In the spring of 1948 phonies again organized a Seafood Workers union which was nothing but a company-inspired company union. The Seafood union was ruled out of existence by the NLRB because of its company unionism.

Now in 1949 the phonies have brought in the Seafarers International union AFL, which has petitioned for an election. An election is now in progress with SIU on the ballot and the fish cannery workers will vote "yes" or "no" as to whether they want to be represented by the SIU-AFL.

Local 7 members see this as another attempt by the industry to create disunity in the local so as to weaken the bargaining power of the union.

The employers profit by such disunity. The election started April 29th and runs through to August 20th, in five voting periods with several days of non-voting between the voting periods. The reason for five voting periods is because there are five shipping out periods to Alaska.

A few weeks ago an earthquake took place around the Seattle area. One of the buildings badly damaged was Local 7's headquarters. The third floor was condemned and is now being rebuilt. The earthquake took place a few minutes before noon.

Regional Director Jack Montgomery and Assistant Regional Director Bob Kinney were caught in the earthquake. Kinney dodged the falling plaster while other Local 7 members scurried for cover. Jack Montgomery was caught and grabbed the door and was seen swinging from side to side. In true Montgomery form, he was chanting "swing and sway with FTA!"

On August 20th when the ballots are counted, the AFL will think that another earthquake has hit them.

J. T.

To add confusion, reactionary leaders of the CIO International Woodworkers with national headquarters in Portland, Oregon launched a raid on our local and intervened with the NLRB to place IWA on the ballot with the SIU which would have made it an SIU, IWA and no union ballot. CIO Regional Director Roy Atkinson engineered this for the IWA.

A committee composed of Robert Kinney, assistant regional director Ernest Mangaoang, business agent of Local 7, Joe Camarillo, secretary-treasurer of Local 7 and the writer barged in on Atkinson and protested vigorously at such treachery. We pointed out that the national CIO convention in Portland last year raised the per capita to the CIO from five cents to eight cents and that this extra money was to be used to organize the unorganized and that for Atkinson to engage in a raid upon our Union in the name of the CIO is using our money to cut our own throats.

We believe such policies are inimical to the interests of the American labor movement and play right into the hands of employers who relish the idea of labor organizations acting as vultures upon each other. We pointed out that FTA has never raided any other union—CIO or AFL. There are millions of unorganized workers all over the country and any genuine labor organization that wants to increase its membership can go ahead with organizing the unorganized and not disorganize the organized.

Local 7 is now engaged in an intensive pre-election campaign to pile up as high a "no" vote against the AFL as possible. The membership realizes that an overwhelming "no" vote against the AFL will increase their bargaining strength in the canneries and will bring about wage increases so badly needed for these seasonal workers.

The usual AFL tactic of redbaiting is being used. Redbaiting in Local 7 has failed in the past and I am confident it will fail again. The SFU recently signed a contract for its fish cannery workers wtihout a wage increase. Local 7 has always set the pace in the past for raising wages for fish cannery workers and they have known that those who redbait get the least in wage increases.

ARTHUR GAETH—ABC
"Let the People Speak"
Sponsored by UE-CIO
EVERY MONDAY NIGHT

273 in Organizing Drive

Local 273, New York, has taken the FTA convention ordered organizing drive to heart, and now has an active rank and file committee out tackling unorganized shops.

According to Asst. Regional Director Severino Martinez: "We have already tackled a few shops and it will be a question of days before we know the results. We feel confident of good results because all the cigar workers in the city are talking about 273's campaign."

Short weeks and layoffs are still plaguing the workers in the industry, Martinez reports. Strict application of seniority has cut layoffs in the D. Emil Klein shop, organized by Local 105.

LOCAL 300 HOLDS 2nd CONVENTION

By Viola Bush
Editor "The 300"

The second annual convention of the Cigar Makers Union, Local 300 was held in Lima, Ohio. This local consists of seven plants of cigar workers who are employed at DWG Corp. in Lima, St. Marys, Delphos, Findlay, Van Wert, and Detroit, Michigan.

Local 300 President Sally Sullivan conducted the meeting. Representing the international were vice-president Armando Ramirez and Regional Director Warren G. Horie.

President Sullivan in her opening address stressed the need for unity and strength among the workers. The president's yearly report brought praise from each division. She was voted president by acclamation.

The financial report was read by Sister Nell Fox, North Lima, Financial Secretary-Treasurer of Local 300. Editors report was given by Sister Viola Bush, South Lima, Editor of "The 300." Both were reelected. Sister Violet Schifferly, recording secretary of Local 300 who hails from Findlay was also voted to office for another year. Sister Hazel Bonifas of Delphos won election for vice-President.

Others elected to office on the Executive Board were: Sister Edna Boroff (Van Wert); Jackie Lawson (South Lima); Lula Mosey (Delphos) as trustees. Sister Minnie Duckro (North Lima) Sgt. at Arms; Sisters Mae Reid (Van Wert); Flossie Mills (St. Marys); Dorothy Blakely (St. Marys); Goldie Downing (Findlay); Viola Wadasz (Detroit); Sally Orlowski (Detroit); Beaut Mahlmeister (North Lima); board members at large.

The constitutional committee report was read and explained by the chair-lady Sister Beaut Mahlmeister of North Lima. A few changes were proposed and accepted.

Brother Ramirez extended gratitude on behalf of FTA for the wonderful job our president had performed during her first term.

Warren Horie also praised the president as well as the rest of the leaders who had served so faithfully. Said he, "The job now is to retain the unity and solidarity built the past year."

Our newspaper "The 300" also received praise. It is valued throughout the plants as a means of keeping up on news, grievance procedure, financial reports, and many other interesting things.

The convention was a huge success. The delegation was orderly and accomplished a great many things for the good of the union. Harmony was shown during the singing of union songs led by Sister Theresa Kaluszka of Detroit.

The meeting closed with discussion of sending delegates to the conference in Philadelphia.

Not So Easily Driven to War

In April, FTA President Donald Henderson was sent to Paris, France, to act as observer at a meeting of the World Federation of Trade Unions. While there, he attended and spoke at the World Peace Congress. Workers representatives from 70 countries came to the Congress. A mass meeting at the end brought 500,000 people — mostly workers — from all over Europe to demand no more war.

This is President Henderson's speech at the World Peace Congress.

It has been decided that I, as an American labor leader, would present to you a brief but nevertheless necessary picture of the situation in our land and of the forces that are entering the American arena as part of this great world peace movement.

It is not without a great deal of humility that I stand before you, yet I must say that mixed with that humility there is some pride, perhaps a great deal of pride.

Coming across the ocean all the long distance to this old and lovely continent of yours, I had thought quite often of the terms in which I would defend America. But since then it has occurred to me that this would not be the right approach to this great gathering of mankind. I tell you, and I think I have the right to tell you, that the American people will defend themselves against the ugly and inhuman forces of war and fascism.

TORRENT OF LIES

Never before in the history of propaganda, has a people been subjected to such a torrent of filth, lies and anti-Soviet slander as that which the American people are subjected to. Yet I can say quite truthfully that the American people have withstood this barrage of hatred.

They have not forgotten that their sons live and their homes stand inviolate because the great and brave Red Army withstood the monster of Nazism and hurled it back into the shattered ruins of the nest that spawned it.

Believe me, my dear friends, we will not so easily be driven to war against the great Soviet Union, a workers' republic, we will not so easily be made to lay down our lives for Wall Street, Washington and the dollar.

The question of liberty, the word itself is not new to the people of the United States of America. When the Republic of France was still a dream in the minds and the hearts of brave Frenchmen, the people of France shed their blood on American soil in our revolution for the creation of our democracy. And how often since then have the people of every nation that is represented here in this great arena, every nation, shed their blood on American soil in the interest of human dignity and freedom!

WILL NOT GIVE UP

Do you think that we will easily give up this precious heritage for which we, as well as you, have paid so great a price?

Please believe me, my dear friends, the struggle in America is only beginning!

In a way we have been chosen for the field of honor — or dishonor — depending on how well we conduct the fight. I do not have to tell you that today the United States is the citadel of world reaction. But I can tell you that the American people are not fascists, the American people are not reactionaries, and their voice will be heard, and their strength will be felt.

What you have already been through and what you have already paid such an awful price for, this today confronts us. Our working people face depression, and they have already felt the brutal terror of reaction. Our intellectuals face suppression of all ideas and thoughts. Our farmers face a future of poverty and insecurity. Our women face the prospect that once again their children will be called to the general slaughter.

HAND OF REACTION

And my good friends, we know this. We have felt the harsh touch of reaction at home. The twelve leaders of the Communist Party of the United States sit in court even as I speak, in a mockery of justice that will be remembered as the second Reichstag fire trial.

In three of our states, the Communist Party and other progressive organizations have been virtually forced underground. Dozens of our intellectuals face imprisonment.

And the Negro people, who have shown such a mighty patience under their burden of oppression and humiliation are made to understand by Washington and Wall Street that this burden will not be decreased but increased.

Can you believe that we will stand quietly by and allow these things to happen?

It would mean that we Americans are without hearts and without conscience. It would also mean that all the great and militant struggles of the labor movement to which I belong have been for nothing.

But I tell you, and I think I can tell you truthfully, that this is not the case. I don't wish to present a falsely optimistic picture. Such a picture could do a grave injury to this Congress. But I do feel that I must tell you the truth and the truth is that the American people will fight back, and already this resistance to tyranny has begun.

FIGHT FOR PEACE

Only a week ago, 300 labor leaders in the United States signed a document which condemned the Atlantic Pact and which called upon the American people to unite for peace. Only a few weeks ago in New York City, a mighty congress of intellectuals, the greatest and broadest such gathering ever seen in the United States of America met together, defied the warmakers, and issued to the American people a straightforward and ringing call for peace. On the campuses, in the universities, the students are organized against the idea that they were brought into this world to be meat for slaughter. And the Progressive Party under the leadership of Henry A. Wallace not only lives, but increases its strength, as will be shown in the next election in the United States.

I can see into the future no better than you, but I have spent the best years of my life with the American working class and I think I know the working people of America. I think I can see a little into their hearts and I tell you that in the struggle that lies ahead of us, the working class in the United States, leading the people of the United States, will not give you reason to be ashamed.

Your beautiful country, my French friends, is a long distance from our shore. Compared to Europeans, we are to a degree an insular and provincial people; and it was rather difficult for us to convince the many hundreds of American leaders in the fight for peace that such a long journey as this was necessary. But because they are not here in body, do not think they are not with us in spirit and heart. We are starting our fight.

LEND US STRENGTH

Now I ask you to lend us your strength, your love, and your understanding—even as you have lent us those things so often in the past. And in return we pledge to you that the fight for freedom, in the best traditions of American democracy, will not be betrayed.

We pledge to you that once again, as so often in the past, we will put down this ugly monster of reaction, and make America, upon the lips of all mankind, a sweet word, a word that stands for freedom and dignity.

So I stand before you not with apologies and not with shame, but as a single voice of the many, many voices of the American people. That voice will be heard with yours. Their strength is joined with yours. My people march ahead with you, for the future.

"... not so easily driven to war."

15 WINS 65c MINIMUM PAY

Minimum hiring rates for all hourly-rated workers at the ATC plant in Charleston, S. C., were raised to 65 cents an hour in the agreement that came into effect recently.

At the same time, piece-rate workers were raised to a weekly minimum earnings base of the same amount, the local reports.

After the probationary period is completed, hourly-rated workers receive a minimum of 70 cents per hour. The increase amounts to an average of five cents per hour.

Maximum rates will go to the top of the range in the classifications written into the agreement.

Commenting on the new rates, Local 15 issued a leaflet which said in part: "You now have that wage increase you had been waiting for. Local 15, FTA, has done its part. Now the few that have not signed up, do your part to build a larger and stronger union."

Judging by membership reports from the local, the workers are doing just that—joining Local 15 to build a larger and stronger union.

MAKE CONGRESS ACT!

ISSUE & BILLS	STATUS	ACTION
TAFT-HARTLEY REPEAL **HR 2032. Administration repeal of T-H with amendments.**	Wood bill, same as T-H, was first passed by House, as substitute for Administration Lesinski bill, then sent back to Committee. No action scheduled House or Senate. Talk continues that administration will continue to press for Sims bill, its own version of T-H.	Fight for straight T-H repeal and return to Wagner Act. Don't fall for "compromise" proposals that change name of T-H but keep the law.
MINIMUM WAGE **HR 3190. Reported by House Labor Committee.**	Administration backing down, after T-H defeat. In place of HR 3190 which eliminates some food & tobacco exemptions, Lesinski, House Labor Committee Chairman, is now supporting bill to raise minimum to 75c but make no improvements in exemptions. Senate Labor Committee completed hearings. No floor action scheduled either body.	Insist in letters to your congressmen & senators that all exemptions which deny FTA workers overtime be eliminated.
SOCIAL SECURITY	House Ways & Means Committee meeting in executive session following hearings on increased benefits and extension of coverage.	Write your congressman to support $100 per month minimum old age pension and coverage for packing-shed and agricultural workers, now excluded.
HEALTH INSURANCE **S 1679.**	National health insurance program which is being fought by medical association. Senate Labor Committee holding hearings.	Write your senators, urging support.
FEPC	House Labor sub-committee holding hearings.	Write congressmen demanding action—this most important civil rights issue receiving least attention.

FTA, AFL in Joint Cigar Meeting

Here are three FTA leaders at the cigar industry conference held in Philadelphia. From left: Sister Anna Lee Bonneau of Local 15, co-Chairman John Cummings, Local 15, and Local 300 President Sally Sullivan.

Map Joint Pay Policy In FTA-AFL Conference

A 14-point joint wage and contract policy worked out by delegates from the two unions was a feature of the cigar workers' conference held in Philadelphia by FTA cigar locals and representatives of the AFL Cigarmakers Union.

The conference emphasized that "substantial pay increases must be fought for and won in order to bring the wages of our workers closer to the wage levels in other industries and closer to providing the income required for a decent American standard of living."

To do this, the conference called for "a minimum wage of $1.00 per hour, in line with the policy adopted at the 7th FTA convention."

The conference also called for defeat of "company efforts to cut wage rates when double die machines are used." Existing single die rates must be maintained and a rate of at least $1.61 per 1,000 for nine and 10-cent cigars must be secured. Speed and operation of the machines must be subject to grievance proceduree.

On displaced workers, the conference demanded severance pay and pensions for those permanently laid off, with machine jobs for hand cigar workers when displaced.

The 30-hour work week "with no reduction in weekly take-home pay" was urged "in order to prevent wholesale layoffs in the cigar industry."

Pensions on company financed plans "should be sought to guarantee decent living standards to workers on retirement," and the guaranteed annual wage "campaign must be stepped up."

All contracts should contain "union shop or maintenance of membership clauses, to take effect when and if legal," and the "checkoff should be irrevocable for the life of the agreement, automatically renewed unless revoked during a 10-day escape period."

In addition the conference called for protection, through seniority, against runaway shop and for automatic progression rather than so-called "merit raises."

Under "other improvements," the conference urged: "equal pay for equal work; no discrimination; a third week of vacation after 10 years; additional health and welfare benefits, including paid sick leave; and provisions prohibiting supervisors from performing work normally done by union members."

Sixty delegates from locals of FTA and from the international Cigarmakers Union of the AFL met in a weekend session on problems in the cigar industry in Philadelphia, Pa., at the call of FTA.

The meeting was the first in labor history in which representatives of two competing unions, one CIO and the other AFL, met to work out common problems in a spirit of unity. As such, the meeting attracted national press attention.

Opening the conference, FTA Vice-President Armando Ramirez welcomed both FTA and AFL delegates and said:

"This is a working conference that has to face realities. For a long time we have had many unions in the cigar industry which never got together. Because of this, 50 percent of the industry is still unorganized. The little organization we have in the CIO and the AFL is not strong enough to force the employers to give the workers decent conditions. After many years, we at last have an opportunity to sit here together and discuss our mutual problems and make plans to try to solve them."

AFL Cigarmakers President Mario Azpeitia responded by saying: "We are very glad to be here with you. I hope this conference will be a success. One thing must be clear. We have the duty to improve the working conditions of our memberships and of all those working in the cigar industry. Let us work hard in trying to achieve this end."

The conference set up five working committees, in which every delegate was elected to serve. The five committees were: 1. CMIU-FTA Cooperation; 2. Organizing; 3. Contracts and Wage Policy; 4. Legislative; 5. Press and Publicity. Each comimttee reported to the full conference after separate meetings.

The CMIU-FTA Cooperation Committee recommended, and the conference unanimously adopted, the following statement:

"1. This conference go on record that both parties agree to call meetings of any local or group of workers in both organizations working for the same company.

"2. The joint parties pledge not to raid any organized plants.

"3. That at any time FTA or CMIU begin organization at any plant, each should notify the other so that neither will go into these plants except to give asistance in organization.

"4. That particularly in machine plants we exchange contracts whenever possible in order that we may have a clear picture of existing conditions."

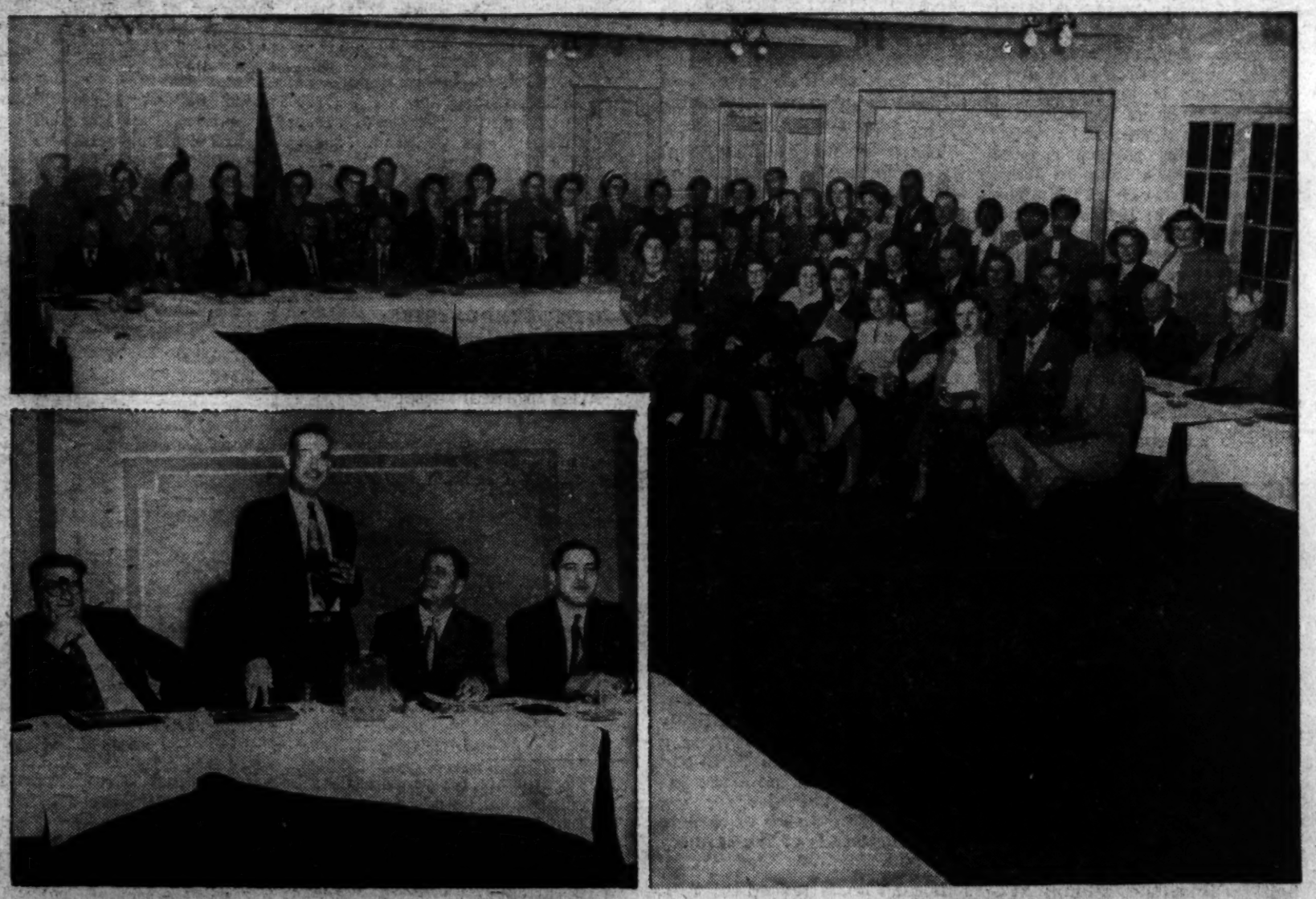
Reporting on wage and contract policy, the conference adopted a number of points including a $1.00 minimum wage; opposition to all company efforts to cut rates on the double-die machines; new jobs, severance pay and pensions for laid-off workers; a 30 hour week, guaranteed annual wage, pensions and union security; strict seniority.

The committee also called for pay for cleaning machines and during breakdowns; relief operator for every six four-operator machines; automatic wage progressions and other improvements.

The report of the organizing committee was given by Local 186 Business Agent George Ardelean, and outlined areas for special concentration, voluntary contributions to finance organizing, use of full-time organizers, and other points.

A full review of the situation on Taft-Hartley and the minimum wage law featured the report of the Legislative Committee.

The Press and Publicity Committee recommended closer cooperation with FTA News, with emphasis on mailing lists and on regular reports from locals, and recommended the use of local and chain papers to supplement FTA News.



This is the full conference of FTA-CIO and Cigarmakers Union AFL delegates held in Philadelphia on call of FTA. Meeting was the first one in which two "rival" unions, one CIO and the other AFL, met to work out common problems. Agreement to avoid raiding and to help each other organize was worked out. The conference attracted national attention in the press. Inset are Chas. Rohler, vice-president, Mario Azpeitia, president, AFL Cigarmakers; Armando Ramirez, vice-president, and John Tisa, director of organization, FTA.

SMILE, SAM!
SLURP!
SPEED-UP SAM, COMPANY MAN...
SAM'S OUTPUT
RIDES A 'HOSS' CALLED 'LOVE THAT BOSS'
LAYOFF
WORKS LIKE SIN TO TRY TO GET 'IN'
WON'T BE LONG TILL HE HEARS THAT GONG!

The Real Issue

FTA Spells Pay Raises To Reynolds Workers

Despite all the raiding—and all the hot air that goes with it—the facts speak louder than fancy in the R. J. Reynolds situation in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The fancy put out by the raiders—CIO Transport Service Employees masquerading as a tobacco workers union and the AFL—puts all its stress on FTA's alleged inability to win gains for the workers.

But the facts of wage increases steadily won for the workers at Reynolds through organization in FTA Local 22 are clear. Deeds always speak louder than words—and here are the deeds performed for Reynolds workers in the years of FTA organization.

1. Reynolds workers have won 29 cents a hour in wage increases through FTA. The first contract in 1944 brought a four cent increase. The second in 1945 brought a five cent increase. The third in 1946 brought a 12 cent increase. The fourth in 1947 brought an eight cent increase, plus four cents in other gains.

2. The hiring-in rate was 46 cents an hour before the union. The union brought it up to 65 cents—a 25 cent increase.

3. The minimum classified rate after the 60 day probationary period was 48 cents before FTA. Now it is 77 cents—a 29 cent increase.

Now for the other side of the story. The CIO Transport Service union moved in on the Piedmont leafhouse. They peddled an anti-FTA, redbaiting line. As a result of Transport moving in, earnings at Piedmont have gone down from a range of $5.00 to $9.00 a day to a top of $4.80.

But at Export and Winston Leaf, where the workers drove the Transport splitters out, they kept all their gains and added new ones—a 2½ cent increase in Export.

There is no question that these increases would have been much higher if the Transport officials had kept their noses out of the tobacco industry.

And there's equally no question but what the tobacco companies simply love to have the Transport disrupters around. After all, when you want to protect a $34,000,000.00 profit (which is the Reynolds figure) you'll welcome anything that will help to do that job.

State CIO Aids Local 7

By Chris Mensalvas

(See page 3)

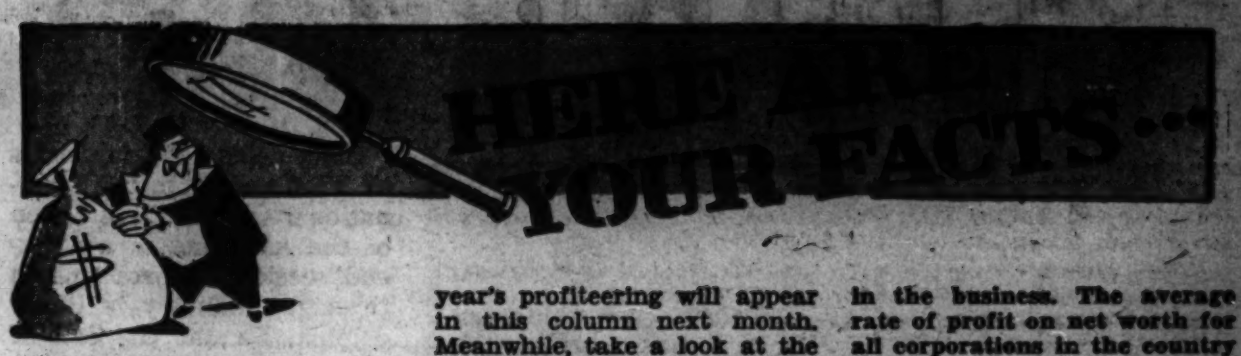
Complete support has been pledged to FTA Local 7 by unions of the Washington State CIO Council in the local's fight against the raiding union, the AFL Seafarers. Support came at a conference called by the state Council which was attended by representatives of 23 local and nine international unions throughout the state.

The statement of policy adopted by the conference pledged the following: 1. Complete support to Local 7 in its fight against the raiding AFL Seafarers and any other group or individuals who seek to aid and abet these forces of disruption; 2. That the facilities of the Washington State CIO Council be made available to Local 1 in this fight.

AFL Sellout

Local 7 is still negotiating for a 1949 agreement which is expected to be a much better one than the AFL has signed for the 190 members under its control. This contract, already turned down by Local 7, is a worse one than the AFL had last year. It has no wage increases and provides for the hiring and lining up of men to be in the hands of the cannery foremen.

Local 7 has attacked this AFL contract as a step backward to the days of the contracting system when the workers had to buy their jobs from contractors or foremen.



PROFITS OF FTA COMPANIES IN 1948

By Joseph Califf
Research & Education Director

The bosses did it again in 1948. Profits of American corporations hit a new all-time record for the third year in a row.

The complete story on last year's profiteering will appear in this column next month. Meanwhile, take a look at the figures given below, showing the profits of 39 companies for which FTA members work.

All of these outfits made money last year, and most of them cleaned up in a big way. Heading the list is Wesson Oil & Snowdrift Co., which made 34.7% profit on its net worth. In other words, this company took in nearly 35 cents clear profit on every dollar invested in the business. The average rate of profit on net worth for all corporations in the country was 10%. Most of the FTA firms did much better than this.

For the sake of comparison, figures are shown for 1948; 1947; 1945, the last year before Congress took the lid off profits by wrecking the OPA and repealing the tax on excess profits; and the average for 1936-1939, the four years just before the war.

PROFITS AFTER TAXES OF 39 FTA COMPANIES*

Industry and Comapny	Profits After Taxes 1936-39 (average)	1945	1947	1948	Return on net worth (percent) 1948
1—CANNING:					
Alaska Pacific Salmon Co.	$96,000	$ —72,000 (loss)	$860,000	$405,000	15.2
California Packing Corp.	2,109,000	2,635,000	11,627,000	9,612,000	13.1
Columbia Rivers Packers Assn.	205,000	159,,000	1,123,000	843,000	18.6
Hunt Foods, Inc.	—114,000 (loss)	530,000	2,715,000	339,000	1.8
Libby, McNeill & Libby	1,927,000	3,882,000	6,499,000	3,810,000	7.6
Pacific Amer. Fisheries, Inc.	136,000	414,000	1,844,000	1,749,000	17.8
2—COTTONSEED OIL, ETC.:					
Central Soya Co., Inc.	255,000‡	1,037,000	5,974,000	4,046,000	23.3
Cudahy Packing Co.	—514,000 (loss)	2,505,000	7,122,000	1,013,000	1.9
Proctor & Gamble Co.	23,998,000	19,111,000	62,881,000	42,600,000	18.8
Swift & Co.	5,863,000	12,304,000	34,335,000	27,889,000	10.0
Wesson Oil & Snowdrift Co., Inc. (owner of Southern Cotton Oil Co. and Southern Shell Fish Co.)	2,424,000	3,820,000	14,662,000	20,050,000	34.7
3—DAIRY:					
Beatrice Foods Co.	1,652,000	2,955,000	3,472,000	4,087,000	12.5
Bridgeman Russell Co.	13,000	90,000	170,000	164,000	13.3
Carnation Co.	2,050,000	2,447,000	5,483,000	5,769,000	13.5
National Dairy Prod. Corp.	11,083,000	14,114,000	23,159,000	25,358,000	15.4
United Milk Products Co.	10,000	320,000	750,000	273,000	11.7
4—GRAIN:					
Allied Mills, Inc.	1,414,000	1,329,000	2,451,000	2,636,000	9.5
Archer-Daniels-Midland Co.	2,073,000	3,924,000	15,031,000	13,597,000	23.0
Penick & Ford, Ltd., Inc.	1,043,000	1,355,000	3,338,000	2,110,000	15.3
Ralston Purina Co.	2,491,000†	2,665,000	8,029,000	5,696,000	10.6
5—TOBACCO:					
American Tobacco Co.	24,546,000	19,697,000	33,845,000	43,912,000	14.5
British-American Tobacco Co., Ltd. (owner of Export Leaf Tobacco Co.)	22,221,000	14,419,000	22,173,000	36,184,000	22.4
Consolidated Cigar Corp.	842,000	1,232,000	2,589,000	2,642,000	22.6
D. Emil Klein Co., Inc.	169,000	170,000	— 55,000 (loss)	42,000	2.1
DWG Cigar Corp.	679,000	443,000	1,133,000	804,000	10.9
General Cigar Co., Inc.	1,391,000	1,290,000	1,598,000	1,505,000	5.7
Imperial Tobacco Co.	42,629,000	36,004,000	59,898,000	41,216,000§	13.0
P. Lorillard Co.	3,414,000	3,534,000	5,516,000	5,645,000	10.2
R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.	26,558,000	19,697,000	32,632,000	34,617,000	15.0
U. S. Tobacco Co.	3,613,000	2,240,000	2,475,000	3,204,000	12.1
Universal Leaf Tobacco Co.	1,556,000	1,443,000	1,814,000	2,393,000	14.4
6—OTHER INDUSTRIES:					
American Home Prods. Co. (owner, Duff's Baking Mix)	3,234,000	6,403,000	6,624,000	9,107,000	15.4
Anderson, Clayton & Co.	3,916,000†	8,638,000	17,148,000	20,771,000	21.8
Atlas Imperial Diesel Engine Co.	148,000‡	368,000	167,000	161,000	2.7
Consolidated Grocers Corp. (owner of Marshall Canning Co. & Reid, Murdoch & Co.)	—	1,436,000	1,140,000	2,615,000	13.0
General Foods Corp.	13,836,000	13,144,000	18,304,000	24,556,000	17.3
George Weston, Ltd., (owner of Southern Biscuit Co.)	562,000	1,020,000	1,688,000	1,577,000	12.4
Planters Nut & Chocolate Co.	425,000	1,401,000	971,000	1,269,000	13.0
Standard Brands, Inc.	10,167,000	9,576,000	8,119,000	7,278,000	7.2
TOTAL, 39 COMPANIES **	$218,220,000††	$216,679,000	$430,304,000	$411,544,000	14.7
PERCENT OF INCREASE, 39 COMPANIES, 1948, COMPARED TO	87.4%†† (1936-39)	89.9% (1945)	—4.4% (decrease) (1947)	—	—

*Figures are for years ending between August 31 and February 28. In the case of several of the companies listed, figures for 1936-39 and 1945 are for the company's fiscal years ending between June and August.

†Average 1938-1941.

‡Average 1937-1940.

§Estimated.

**In 1946, these 39 companies made $361,063,000 profit after taxes.

††Thirty-eight companies, not including Consolidated Grocers Corp., which started business in 1941.

HOW THEY VOTED ON THE WOOD BILL

This is the voting record of the Congressmen on the Wood bill, which was the southern-Democrat northern-Republican substitute for the CIO and Administration backed Thomas-Lesinski bill to repeal Taft-Hartley. The Wood bill was in many ways worse than the original Taft-Hartley law.

Two votes are recorded here. The first vote is on the passage of the Wood bill, which went through 217 to 203. The second vote is on the motion to recommit the Wood bill, which was possible due entirely to Rep. Marcantonio's (ALP-N. Y.) alertness and fighting ability. The recommital vote was passed by 212 to 209, and buried the Wood bill.

It must be remembered, however, that only 37 Congressmen had the guts to vote for Marcantonio's straight repealer bill.

(NOTE: Only those Congressmen from FTA districts are listed.)

EXPLANATION: "R" means a right vote, either against the Wood bill the first time or for recommital the second time. "W" means a wrote vote. "PR" and "PW" mean paired for or against, but not voting. "O" means absent and not paired. The numbers in front of the names are the numbers of the Congressional districts.

	Vote No. 1	Vote No. 2
ALABAMA		
2. Grant, George (D)	W	W
ARIZONA		
1. Murdock, John (D)	R	R
2. Patten, Harold (D)	R	R
ARKANSAS		
1. Gathings, Ezekiel (D)	W	W
5. Hays, Brooks (D)	W	R
CALIFORNIA		
1. Scudder, Hubert (R)	W	W
3. Johnson, Leroy (R)	W	W
4. Havenner, Franck (D)	R	R
5. Welch, Richard (R)	R	R
6. Miller, George (D)	R	R
7. Allen, Jr., John (R)	W	W
8. Anderson, Jack (R)	W	W
9. White, Cecil (D)	R	R
10. Werdel, Thomas (R)	W	W
11. Bramblett, Ernest (R)	W	W
12. Nixon, Richard (R)	W	W
13. Poulson, Norris (R)	W	W
14. Douglas, Helen (D)	R	R
15. McDonough, Gordon (R)	W	W
16. Jackson, Donald (R)	W	W
17. King, Cecil (D)	R	R
18. Doyle, Clyde (D)	R	R
19. Holifield, Chet (D)	R	R
20. Hinshaw, Carl (R)	W	W
21. McKinnon, Clinton (D)	R	R
COLORADO		
2. Hill, William (R)	W	W
DELAWARE		
AL. Boggs, James (R)	W	W
FLORIDA		
1. Peterson, James (D)	W	R
2. Bennett, Charles (D)	R	R
4. Smathers, George (D)	R	R
5. Herlong, Jr., Albert (D)	W	R
6. Rogers, Dwight (D)	W	W
GEORGIA		
1. Preston, Jr., Prince (D)	W	W
ILLINOIS		
1. Dawson, William (D)	R	R
2. O'Hara, Barratt (D)	R	R
3. Linehan, Neil (D)	R	R
4. Buckley, James V. (D)	R	R
5. Gorski, Martin (D)	R	R
6. O'Brien, Thomas (D)	R	R
7. Sabath, Adolph (D)	R	R
8. Gordon, Thomas (D)	R	R
9. Yates, Sidney (D)	R	R
10. Hoffman, Richard (R)	W	W
11. Chesney, Chester (D)	R	R
12. Jonas, Edgar (R)	W	W
13. Church, Ralph (R)	W	W
18. Velde, Harold (R)	W	W
INDIANA		
4. Kruse, Jr., Edward (D)	R	R
5. Walsh, John (D)	O	O
8. Denton, Winfield (D)	R	R
10. Harvey, Ralph (R)	W	W
11. Jacobs, Andrew (D)	R	R
[illegible] O. (R)	W	W
[illegible] R. (R)	R	R
KENTUCKY		
1. Gregory, Noble (D)	W	W
8. Underwood, Thomas (D)	R	R
LOUISIANA		
[illegible] ward (D)	W	W
[illegible] (D)	R	R
MARYLAND		
[illegible] m (D)	W	R
[illegible] ard (D)	R	R
[illegible] (D)	W	R
[illegible] rge (D)	R	R
[illegible] (R)	W	W
[illegible] (R)	W	W
[illegible] (R)	R	R
[illegible] (R)	W	W
[illegible] (R)	W	W
[illegible] (R)	R	R
[illegible] ge (D)	O	R
14. Rabaut, Louis (D)	R	R
15. Diggell, John (D)	R	R
16. Lesinski, John (D)	R	R
17. Dondero, George (R)	W	W
MINNESOTA		
1. Andresen, August (R)	W	W
8. Wier, Roy (D)	R	R

	Vote No. 1	Vote No. 2
4. McCarthy, Eugene (D)	R	R
5. Judd, Walter (R)	W	W
MISSISSIPPI		
1. Rankin, John (D)	W	W
3. Whittington, Wm. (D)	W	W
7. Williams, John (D)	W	W
MISSOURI		
3. Welch, Phil (D)	R	R
10. Jones, Pal (D)	R	R
NEW JERSEY		
1. Wolverton, Charles (R)	W	W
3. Auchincloss, James (R)	W	W
4. Howell, Charles (D)	R	R
6. Case, Clifford (R)	R	R
10. Rodino, Jr., Peter (D)	R	R
11. Addonizio, Hugh (D)	R	R
12. Kean, Robert (R)	W	W
NEW YORK		
6. Delaney, James (D)	R	R
12. Rooney, John J. (D)	R	R
18. Marcantonio, Vito (ALP)	R	R
19. Klein, Arthur (D)	R	R
39. Cole, W. Sterling (R)	W	W
42. Pfeiffer, William (R)	W	W
43. Tauriello, Anthony (D)	R	R
44. Gorski, Chester (D)	R	R
NORTH CAROLINA		
1. Bonner, Herbert (D)	W	W
2. Kerr, John (D)	W	W
3. Barden, Graham (D)	W	W
4. Cooley, Harold (D)	O	R
5. Chatham, Thurmond (D)	W	W
7. Carlyle, Frank (D)	W	W
10. Jones, Hamilton (D)	R	R
OHIO		
3. Breen, Edward (D)	R	R
4. McCulloch, Wm. (R)	W	W
8. Smith, Frederick (R)	O	O
9. Burke, Thomas (D)	R	R
14. Huber, Walter (D)	R	R
OREGON		
1. Norblad, Walter (R)	W	W
2. Stockman, Lowell (R)	W	W
3. Angell, Homer (R)	R	R
4. Ellsworth, Harris (R)	W	W
PENNSYLVANIA		
1. Barrett, William (D)	R	R
2. Granahan, William (D)	R	R
3. Scott, Hardie (R)	W	W
4. Chudoff, Earl (D)	R	R
5. Green, Jr., Wm. (D)	R	R
6. Scott, Jr., Hugh D. (R)	W	W
7. James, Benjamin (R)	W	W
9. Dague, Paul (R)	W	W
11. Flood, Daniel (D)	R	R
13. Rhodes, George (D)	R	R
17. Simpson, Richard (R)		
21. Lind, James (D)	R	R
28. Kearns, Carroll (R)	W	W
29. Davenport, Harry (D)	R	R
30. Corbett, Robert (R)	R	PR
31. Fulton, James (R)	R	W
32. Eberharter, Herman (D)	R	R
33. Buchanan, Frank (D)	R	R
SOUTH CAROLINA		
1. Rivers, L. Mendel (D)	W	W
TENNESSEE		
6. Priest, Percy (D)	R	R
8. Murray, Tom (D)	W	W
10. Davis, Clifford (D)	W	W
TEXAS		
8. Thomas, Albert (D)	R	R
9. Thompson, Clark (D)	R	R
14. Lyle, Jr., John (D)	R	R
20. Kilday, Paul (D)	W	W
VIRGINIA		
2. Hardy, Jr., Porter (D)	W	R
3. Gary, J. Vaughan (D)	W	W
5. Stanley, Thomas (D)	W	W
WASHINGTON		
1. Mitchell, Hugh (D)	R	R
WEST VIRGINIA		
1. Ramsey, Robert (D)	R	R
WISCONSIN		
1. Smith, Lawrence (R)	W	W
3. Withrow, Gardner (R)	R	R
4. Zablocki, Clement (D)	R	R
5. Biemiller, Andrew (D)	R	R
6. Keefe, Frank (R)	W	W
8. Byrnes, John (R)	W	W
9. Hull, Merlin (R)	R	R

Local 78 Elects Talks Issues

By Edna Lapp
Reporter

May is election month for the Salinas-Watsonville-Hollister area of FTA Local 78, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers. Results will be known by the end of the month.

One of the main issues now under discussion in the local is the union shop. According to the Natl. Labor Relations Board, Loal 78 members are "agricultural" workers—therefore do not come under Taft-Hartley.

The grower-shippers, however, are taking the position that perhaps we are not agricultural workers after all—even though they've spent thousands of dollars in past propaganda claiming that we are.

Workers in the canteloupe deal down in the Imperial Valley are all out to get big contract improvements, as are the workers in the Salt River Valley and Imperial lettuce deals.

Local 40 Wins 10c, Beats Teamsters

A 10 cent hourly raise was won for workers at the United Milk Products Co. in Osseo, Wisc. The raise came in the new contract signed by Local 40 and the company.

The local had to take time out to block an attempted AFL Teamster raid while negotiating the new agreement. The Teamster's usual line of anti-FTA and redbaiting was employed—but had no effect on the workers.

Local 194 Re-Elects

All top officers of FTA 194, Chicago, were re-elected this month. Officers re-elected without opposition include: John Gallacher, president; Henry Gistover, 1st vice-president; Veronica Kryzan, secretary-treasurer; Josephine Chlupsa, recording secretary.

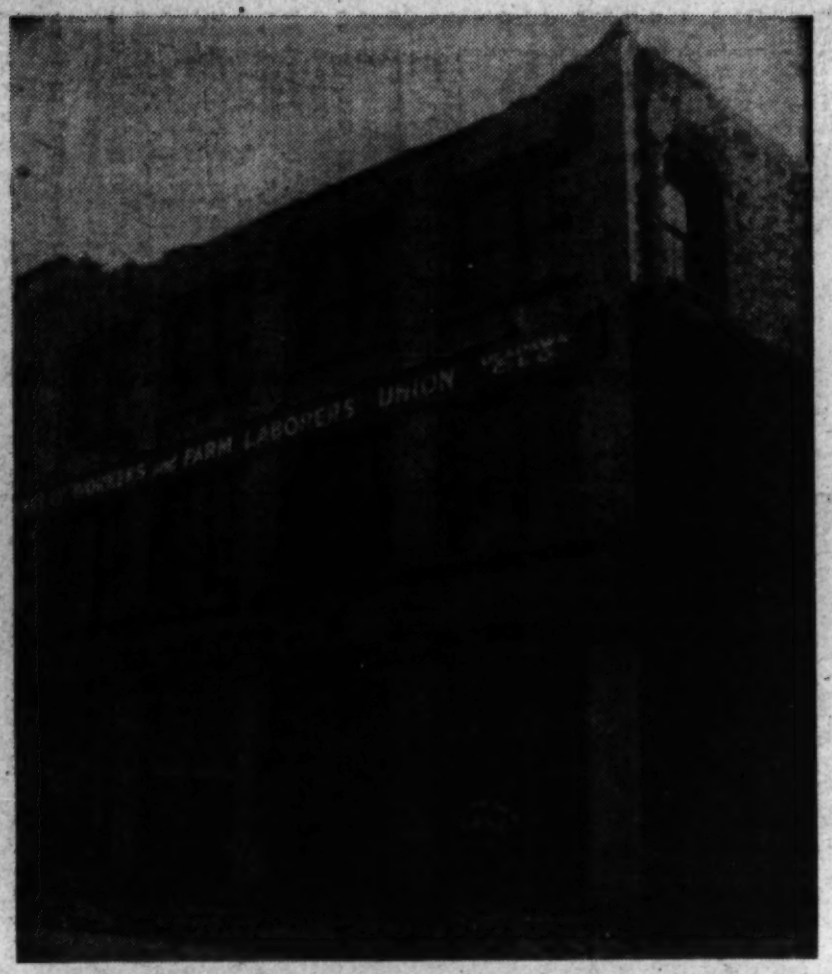
Also elected were: James Thomas, 3rd vice-president; Robert Beirls, 4th vice-president; Iva Boyens, 5th vice-president. Trustees are: Wallace Brown, Estella Dewberry, Wm. Blount, Michael Jurcenko and Mary Fisk. Ernest Fox is sergeant-at-arms. Division chairmen were elected to the multiple post of 2nd vice-pres.

15 Wins Job Back

Because Local 15 (Charleston, S. C.) shop stewards were on the job and fighting, Chris Taylor remains on the job. The company had another person sign a statement that Brother Taylor had taken two cartons of cigarettes. The stewards proved that this wasn't true and the worker's job was restored.

Teamster Graft

Its an old, old story—but two Teamsters officials are facing graft charges once again. They are Secretary-Treasurer Clarence Wernsman and President Dennis Doyle of Teamsters Local 36, San Diego, Calif. Charges include using union funds personally, receiving a kickback on buying a union automobile, failure to submit monthly reports and failure to bond employees of the union handling money.



Everything happens to FTA—including earthquakes. Local 7's big building in Seattle, Wash., was badly damaged in recent quake there. Much of the top story fell off into the street, but no one was seriously injured.

80 Unit Wins Contract Gains

A straight wage increase of five cents an hour plus substantial gains in other sections of the contract were won for workers in the Ellis Can Division of Local 80, Camden, N.J.

Disability insurance at no cost to the workers was also won, amounting to an increase of from $22.00 to $25.00 a week. Free life insurance was raised from $1,000 to $2,500.

Additional gains included payment for holidays when they fall on a Saturday and extension of the seniority clause from 60 days to one year. This protects workers in the event of layoffs.

Negotiating committee included Joseph Colangelo, Frieda Wandless, Daniel Duett and Anthony Valentino, business agent of Local 80.

Houston CIO in Political Purge

"High crimes" which consisted of refusing to let others pry into her political beliefs, supporting Wallace in 1948 and opposing the Atlantic war pact were grounds for the expulsion of FTA Local 75 Business Agent Jacqueline Nelson from the Houston, Tex. CIO Council.

Sister Nelson's counter-attack bothered the right wing CIO officials considerably, especially when she pointed out that she was carrying out FTA convention policy in all her actions. She also attacked the Council officials for jim crowing Negro members by refusing them posts on Council committees.

She also pointed out that FTA Local 75 had just won a sharp strike with Anderson, Clayton & Co., despite the sniping and smearing that went on during the struggle.

Cigar Workers to Organize N. Y.

How the cigar workers in New York are meeting their problems of organizing and dealing with runaway shops is told in a letter to FTA News from Abelardo Baez, secretary of FTA Local 273. Excerpts from Bro. Baez's letter follow:

"After the end of the last World War, unemployment started in the cigar industry.... Then came the closing down of the Regensburg and La Primadora factories, D. Emil Klein suspended all hand workers, and all these employees were out of jobs.

"Since then, many small factories opened up with lower wages and no benefits whatsoever.

"But after the February FTA convention a resolution was passed at our general meeting to organize all New York workers in the industry, regardless of the size of the shop.

"An organizing committee was formed and the week after our work started we succeeded in organizing the following shops: B. Garcia and Andre Y Ana Cigaro Co. and now we are negotiating contracts with them for higher wages and better working conditions."

Prominent in the organizing committee are Brothers Baez, Julio Garcia, Regino Leon and Pedro de Jesus.

Teamsters in Trouble—Again

By Federated Press

The East Bay (Calif.) local of the AFT Teamsters, which has 5,300 members, has been ordered placed in receivership by its international, following an audit of the local's books.

Local 186 Elects

Three vacancies were filled in recent elections in Local 186, Philadelphia. The three elected officers are: Ruth Sharkey, vice-president (Western Stevedoring) and Marie Sanfor, trustee (American Tobacco.)

Two CIO Unions Back Farm Plan

Support for Agriculture Sec. Charles Brannan's proposed long range farm program was voiced May 18 by two CIO unions at a hearing of the House Agriculture Subcommittee considering stabilization of farm income.

Speaking for the program, but suggesting additions to increase its effectiveness, were Research Director Lyle Cooper of the United Packinghouse Workers and Homer Ayres, farm relations director of the Farm Equipment Workers.

Both gave support to the Brannan program principle of insuring farmers a steady income by government payments to them to make up the difference between a floor price and the level to which farm prices fall during hard times. But warning against grabs by food processing corporations for the consumer dollar despite lower farm prices, Ayres said:

"Experience shows that when livestock prices rise sharply the price of meat in butcher shops jumps with it, but when the livestock market falls, the packers and retail butchers are very reluctant to pass lower prices on to the consumers. We know that although wheat has dropped the price of bread has not gone down any.

"Therefore, to prevent the food processors from pocketing what the consumers should get in the form of lower prices there should be some teeth put into the Brannan law in the form of price controls."

Ayres asked that the Brannan proposal to limit price support to farmers producing $25,000 worth be set at a lower figure. He said production payments should not be used to encourage big agriculture and discourage small agriculture, and warned against making crop reduction or marketing controls a condition for small farmers receiving the benefits of the farm program.

High costs have hurt the small farmer, Ayres said. He pointed to the Intl. Harvester Co., the profits of which have zoomed upward since the war. The gravy has not been passed on to farmers in the form of lower machinery prices, nor to the workers in the form of wages, he said.

Cooper said the farm program should not assume that food processors will pass on lower prices to the consumer, but should include controls on profit margins.

unAmericans Bloom Again

Spring, 1949, has brought, along with the more sweet smelling flowers, the annual foul blooming of unAmerican activities in Congress.

This year the smell comes more from the Senate unAmericans than from those in the House, where the Senate Judiciary Committee is pressing the 1949 version of the Mundt-Nixon bill that was blocked by mass pressure in the 80th Congress.

The Senate is traditionally supposed to show more dignity than the House, but last week the Judiciary Committee shucked off its dignity and behaved just as undemocratically as Dies or J. Parnell (Feeney) Thomas ever did.

The occasion was testimony against the new version of the Mundt-Nixon bill by a representative of the American Labor Party, which represents 500,000 voters in New York.

The ALP witness was asked the usual question—"are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?" **Before he could answer,** the committee called armed guards to throw him out of the room.

The ALP man was not allowed to give his testimony—or even to answer the question. He was just thrown out. And that, friends, ends this month's lesson in unAmerican activities—as supplied by the 81st Congress.

This is a union man—Maurice Travis, secretary-treasurer of the CIO Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers—who was slugged in an election campaign in Bessemer, Ala. Brother Travis was not slugged by a company goon. He was beaten almost to death and blinded by a union member, Nick Zonarich of the CIO United Steelworkers. The Steelworkers used violent terror against Negro workers in the election. Klansmen rode in Bessemer before the vote. FTA, with other unions, has protested the goon attack to CIO President Philip Murray.

FTA

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America—CIO

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Stop the Sell-Out! Repeal Taft-Hartley! Restore the Wagner Act!

The Truman Administration and the majority of Congressmen who were elected on a straight Taft-Hartley repeal platform have "compromised" for five months now on Taft-Hartley repeal.

They've gone so far down Compromise lane that they've come to Sellout street.

The "compromise" T-H repeal bill is just as bad—if not worse—than the original Taft-Hartley law.

A horse (or any part thereof) by any other name smells just as bad.

STOP THE SELL-OUT... HERE'S HOW:

1. Hold a plant meeting . . . tell your friends what to do to repeal Taft-Hartley.
2. Wire CIO Pres. Philip Murray, Washington, D. C., and President Truman:

Demand action now,
in this session of Congress.
Repeal Taft-Hartley!
Restore the Wagner Act!